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TO

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

IN PENNSYLVANIA.

AN APPEAL

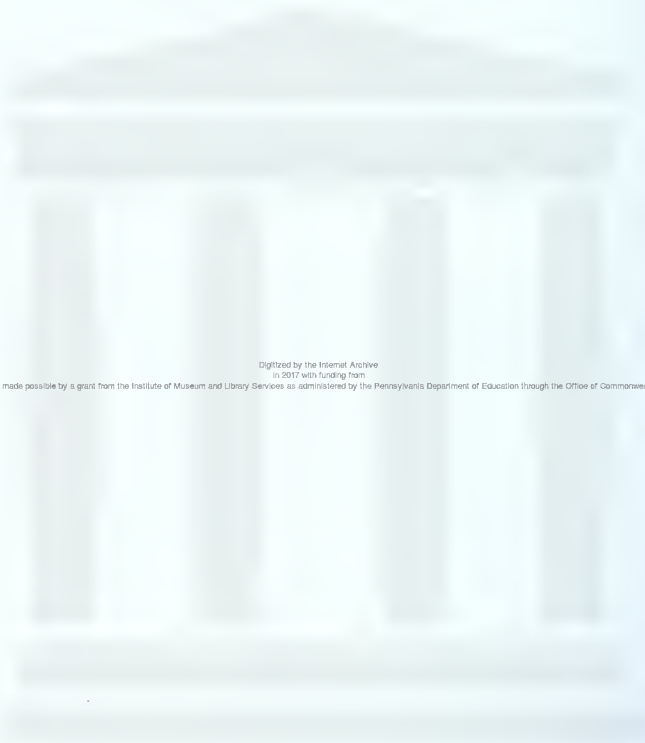
IN BEHALF OF A

HOME FOR WIDOWS AND SINGLE WOMEN

CONNECTED WITH THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN PENNSYLVANIA.

PHILADELPHIA:
THE LEISENRING STEAM PRINTING HOUSE,
Jayne's Building, Nos. 237 and 239 Dock Street.
1871.



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The pressing need of an asylum for widows and single women, in connection with the Presbyterian Church in the State of Pennsylvania, having become apparent, it was decided to undertake the establishment of such an institution.

The subject being presented to Mrs. Ann G. Thomas, a lady distinguished for her enlarged benevolence, she, in sympathy for the cause, and as a memorial of a beloved husband, offered to convey a very valuable lot of ground, containing about five and one-quarter acres, on condition that the sum of twenty thousand dollars should be raised by the recipients, within one year from September next, for the erection of the necessary buildings for the Home.

Encouraged by this generous tender, those interested in the movement called a meeting of ladies, at which such a marked interest was developed, that it resulted in the organization of a society.

The tract of ground given for a home lies within Greenway and Kingsessing avenues, between Fifty-eighth and Fifty-ninth streets, in the Twenty-seventh Ward of the city of Philadelphia, and convenient of access by the Philadelphia and Darby Passenger Railroad.

An asylum for widows and single women has already existed here for many years, which, through the admirable co-operative action of various denominations of Christians, has diffused blessings far and wide through the community. But, as its limits and resources are not at all commensurate with the ever-increasing tide of want and sorrow resulting from poverty, age and bereavement, there seems to be ample room for *another home*, which shall not only relieve those near at hand, but extend its protecting arms to the helpless and forlorn, even from remote sections of the State.

Were it possible, we should rejoice to see *one grand asylum* for *all* the destitute widows and single women of the land, irrespective of denominational differences, but bound together by the common tie of adverse circumstance,

and wearing alike the sacred badge of age and sorrow.

But this *being impossible*, the best substitute which we can adopt is, to gather within the precincts of a home those whose principles and sympathies unite them within some one of the many folds of our common Master.

Thus and therefore we invite the cordial co-operation of the Presbyterian Church of Pennsylvania in this enterprise of Christian philanthropy.

The ground is given. It is consecrated already by fervent prayer, honest purpose, and faithful effort. The wise and fitting use of funds appropriated to the object is, we hope, guaranteed to the public by the character and standing of the ladies composing the board of managers, and the gentlemen constituting their advisory committee.

You have all the *light*, fellow-Christians, on this subject which it is possible within the brief limits of a circular to impart.

Now, in view of it, Presbyteries, Pastors, Churches, here and elsewhere, will you give

us *help* to plant and nourish the germ which shall in due time, by God's blessing, develop into a great tree, beneath whose shadow thousands of weary hearts may find refreshment and rest? *For whom* will the labor be? First and foremost, for Him, who has said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me;" thus linking his afflicted people in a wondrous fellowship with himself.

And *who are these*, committed as a sacred trust to the Church by Christ the Lord? They are a part of the great company of mourners who have outlived the most precious ties and joys of life, or, worse still, have never consciously possessed them.

In patient waiting, these heirs of faith stand upon the desert shore, until, borne heavenward across the narrow sea, they enter the port of peace at last.

Shall we hasten, before they go, to open wells of water, to plant palm-trees, to brighten with genuine Christian sympathy the shadowed pathway of the widow, and the still more deso-

late one, if possible, of the indigent single woman?

Follow the Saviour's bidding and footsteps: so shall you inherit his exceeding great reward, having this sure token of your love to him, that you keep his commandments.

Should this cause meet the approval of our presbyteries, churches, and individual Christians throughout the State, the board of managers request some *immediate action* on the subject, and an *early* response to any one of the executive officers whose names and address are appended to this circular.

Whatever benefits are secured to this prospective Home, through pecuniary or material aid of any kind from the Church at large, will be acknowledged and returned to the beneficiaries on the most equitable and liberal basis.

PRESIDENT,

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